

HABITAT TUNES

To "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" -- Practice, then sing in a round:

Help, help, help the birds
Or they'll be gone like that!
Food, water, cover, space,
That's their habitat!

To "London Bridge"

Everybody needs a home
When they roam
When they roam.
Everybody needs a home
Help the birdies!

Swans and geese and ducklings, too,
Need a home
Just like you.
Swans and geese and ducklings, too,
Help the birdies!

Will we ever get to rest,
I'm depressed
Where's my nest?
Will we ever get to rest?
Help the birdies!

Now I see where I can stand
Farmer John
Lets me land.
A place for me, now ain't that grand?
He'll help the birdies!



(use with gestures)

If you know Musical Chairs, then you already know . . .

MUSICAL GEESE

OBJECTIVE:

Students will understand how loss of habitat contributes to the decrease in waterfowl population through an elimination-type game.

MATERIALS:

- Pieces of green construction paper with the drawing of houses, roads or other development on the back -- see sample
- Music (record or tape)

READ TO YOUR CLASS:

Everybody likes to sing. We know that when ducks sing, it sounds like this: Quack! Quack! (class imitates, and they will). Geese like to sing too, but their song is more like this: Honk! Honk! (class repeats). Today, you will pretend to be geese, and instead of honking songs, I will play regular music for you. If you feel like honking anyway while we play, HONK AWAY!

PRACTICE:

Put the green squares on the floor in a circle, each student to a square. Start the music, and ask them to move like geese (flapping wings and honking). Stop the music. "Take away" one square by turning it over to the picture side. The goose's natural home or habitat has been changed by people so that geese can no longer live there.

THE REAL THING:

Start the music again. Children will move in "cake-walk" fashion. Stop the music, and the goose without the plain green square will have to fly away back to his/her desk because the habitat is not available where development exists. Continue the game and stop with the last two geese.

SUMMARIZE WITH THE CHILDREN:

- What happened? The geese lost their homes. The things they needed for habitat like *food*, *shelter*, *cover* for nesting, and *space* away from people, disappeared.
- What else could have happened? People could have remembered the birds and other wild-life and left enough land and water for them, too.

Now, reverse the game and give some habitat back to the geese, so that needs are met for humans and wildlife.

